

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 EB-07 SCA-01 H-01 INR-07

DLOS-03 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SCS-03 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-03 PA-01 /057 W

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FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3675

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 235

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, EC, US

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF US FISHING BOATS: PROPOSAL FOR BUY-
BACK OF CATCH

1. ZAPATA REPRESENTATIVE SOUSA AND STARKIST REPRESENTATIVE GLIGO AND NEZETICH MET MORNING OF FEBRUARY 9 WITH EPNA DIRECTOR LUIS CHACON TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE BUY-BACK OF CATCH. ACCORDING TO SOUSA, CHACON MADE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL:

A. BOATOWNERS MUST OBTAIN CERTIFICATES FROM ALL SIGNIFICANT ECUADOREAN PROCESSORS (FREEZERS AND CANNERS) DECLARING THAT CATCH NOT NEEDED DOMESTICALLY.

B. ALSO MUST OBTAIN STATEMENT FROM ECUADOREAN ASSOCIATION OF TUNA BOAT OWNERS THAT OFFLOADING OF CATCH WOULD DISRUPT ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL FISHERS.

C. TO SATISFY PUBLIC OPINION, 200-300 TONS PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO BE OFFLOADED EVEN IF CERTIFICATES OBTAINED. REMAINDER WOULD BE RETAINED BY BOATS UPON PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL PENALTY OF \$280 PER TON YELLOWFIN, \$240 PER TON SKIPJACK, PLUS 25 PERCENT FOR BOTH SPECIES.

2. CHACON SAID HE STILL HAS PROBLEM WITH ECUADOREAN NAVY, WHO WANT AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT OFFLOADED IN ANY CASE TO SATISFY PUBLIC
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OPINION.

3. CHACON ALSO SAID THREATS BY CAPTAIN RICO OF "A.K. STROM" TO POISON

OR CONTAMINATE CATCH ARE CREATING SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH COULD RESULT IN RICO'S ARREST AND NEGATE BUY-BACK NEGOTIATIONS. SOUSA AND NEZETICH OFFERED TO MAKE UP RICO'S SHARE OF ANY OFFLOADED FISH IF NECESSARY. ALSO EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF TAKING ENTIRE 200-300 TONS FROM ONE BOAT TO ALLOW EARLY DEPARTURE OF OTHERS. GLIGO AND NEZETICH HAVE GONE TO SALINAS TO TRY TO GET RICO TO STOP THREATS.

4. ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT UNSPECIFIED TIME MORNING FEBRUARY 10 TO FURTHER REFINE PROPOSAL.

5. U.S. SEAMAN WHO REPORTED HE WAS THREATENED BY GUARD (REF KELLER-WEBER TELECON FEBRUARY 8) IS CHARLES EVANS, WINCH HAND ON CITY OF LISBON. DEWITT VISITED SALINAS NAVAL BASE AGAIN FEBRUARY 9 TO URGE NEW DUTY OFFICER EXERCISE BETTER CONTROL OF GUARDS ON BOATS. NO OTHER INCIDENTS REPORTED.
DEWITT

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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